

STORIES OF HOPE



In John 16v24 Jesus said "Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" and in Romans 8v26 Paul teaches us that the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know how to pray as we ought to.

I would like to share some of my experiences with you, through it also demonstrating how the Holy Spirit guided me differently according to the uniqueness of each situation.

The first one is about a young man called Ray, a previous neighbor's eldest son. His whole body language spoke of a low self-esteem and rebellion. But I knew he was hurting badly deep inside. One day his mother, Irene, shared her deep concern for him. "Ray's father died of cancer, and now his younger brother is suffering from the same cancer." I could see the pain in Irene's eyes. She continued: "Ray dropped out of school and the only job he can find is that of a commission salesman. It's completely the wrong profession for him. He is a practical guy, who likes working with his hands." I sensed her despair and tried to reassure her: "I will definitely pray earnestly for him.."

I went home feeling very sorry and burdened for them but especially for Ray. The Lord has taught me in His Word that I must not be like a hypocrite, that I must pray sincerely from my heart. So I sat down and just started talking to the Lord about Ray. "Lord, Ray is hurting and he doesn't have a father anymore....I really don't know what the right thing is to pray for him, the situation is far too big for me." Immediately the Holy Spirit spoke to me through a clear thought in my mind: "He needs a mentor." I was amazed but grateful towards the Lord at the same time. I asked the Lord for just that. After all, I knew what it was like to be hurt, lonely, not knowing the Lord's love and not trusting anybody. But since I've come into a relationship with my Heavenly Father, I can go to Him with all my problems, as well as those of others'. So I continued to pray for him on a regular basis.

Five years later, sadly Raymond's brother passed away and I saw him again at the funeral. He was a different man. He had a good self esteem and was confident. Irene filled in the details : " A local mechanical workshop-owner took him under his wing and taught him the trade. He is now qualified and loved his job." Although she was still very sad about her younger son's passing, she was now smiling as she looked across the room at Ray. "In the meantime he got married and they have a little daughter, just look at her. She absolutely loves her dad!" Her face had lit up with joy which seemed to dissipate some of the sadness. I had noticed the little girl holding onto Ray's leg and sensed that there was a special bond between the two.



My heart rejoiced and I was so happy for them and grateful towards the Lord. In **Matthew 6v6** our Lord Jesus says this: **When you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you in the open.**"
This is exactly what the Lord did!

This gave me more courage to continue praying for others. At the time, I was working as a Radiographer in a state hospital, where the majority of our patients were rural. With every patient, I asked for the Holy Spirit's guidance on how I could be of some encouragement to them..

One Saturday night I was called out to take x-rays of two men who had been involved in a motor accident.



While doing the X rays, I asked the first man : "What happened to you?"
"We were on our way back from a prayer meeting and on the way to start our night shift at work, when we drove into the back of a truck which had no taillights." he replied and then immediately continued "I'm so worried about my friend, he owns the vehicle . He is very distraught because it is a write-off."

I continued to listen while doing the X-rays. He was now talking freely.
"And what's more, because we live in a rural area, our wives have no idea that we are now in hospital." (During those days there were not yet such frequent use of cellular phones in our country.) I could see that he was very worried. I prayed for them all right there and then and just before I was finished, I heard myself

saying : "And Lord, please give this man another vehicle!"

I didn't plan to pray that : I can only say that it must have been the Holy Spirit praying through me.

One morning at work, about three weeks later, I pushed my next patient on a trolley into the x-ray room for follow up x-rays. The patient immediately recognized me. It was the same patient whom I prayed for on that Saturday night.



"The Lord is so great, He is Almighty!" he excitedly exclaimed.

Without waiting for a response, he continued :

"The owner of the truck company contacted my friend and offered to buy him another vehicle if my friend would be willing to withdraw the case!"

He was now bubbling over with joy and just couldn't keep all the good news to himself any longer.

"And you know what else ? The police went all the way to our homes in the rural area to tell our wives the news of the accident and to re-assure them that we were okay."



(Living in a country with a relatively high crime rate, it would have been a tremendous comfort for their wives.)

I don't know who was more blessed by this, them or me!

What the Lord promises in His Word is so true,
where He says

"Cast your bread upon the waters and after many days you will find it." (Ecclesiastes 11v1)

On another occasion, during my morning quiet time I read about Jesus giving his disciples the authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal the sick. **(Matthew 10:1)**

During the course of that morning, I was taking x-rays of a very ill woman. She was on a trolley, unable to even sit up by herself. She mustered up some strength and spoke to me in a very soft voice :
"I am a Christian, but my parents forced me to visit a witch doctor."

I was convinced that this was the reason for her illness. I have experienced this before with other rural people. According to His Word the Lord desires us to come to Him with all our problems and not to consult those who deal with witchcraft. This time the Holy Spirit's guidance came through a sensing in my heart. I felt that she had realized her mistake and was remorseful about disobeying the Lord.

As followers of Christ, we are a royal priesthood with a holy calling; In this instance, I was firstly a witness to her confession, and then I had the privilege to pray for her healing. A few days later, I visited her in the ward but didn't find her there.

A nurse told me what happened:
"When she was admitted, she was so ill that she unable to eat."

"I thought she would not live." Another nurse added. "but she suddenly had a remarkable recovery, so much so that she was able to go home."

Once again my heart rejoiced in thanksgiving to our wonderful Lord.



In **John 15v7&8** Jesus promises us: **"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."**

In closing I will highlight the different ways in which the Holy Spirit guided me :

1. Through a clear thought in my mind.
2. Praying through me.
3. Through a strong sensing in my heart.
4. Most importantly, through Scripture.

It is such a privilege to be a child of God! **This is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to his will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him. 1 John 5v14.**



I am sure that you also have many testimonies which you can share with others and thereby bear fruit as His disciples.

Remember :
God has a 1000 ways to answer every prayer!

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